

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents  
District Transportation Directors  
District Business Officials

**FROM:** Mike Bullman  
Director, Office of Transportation

**DATE:** May 6, 2025

**RE:** FY 2025-2026 Hazardous Transportation and Per-Stop Rate Increase

In 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) suspended collection of fees associated with hazardous transportation costs under pandemic-related emergency authorization. This memo serves as notice that SCDE will resume collecting these hazardous transportation fees, pursuant to state law, for FY 2025-26.

Pursuant to [S.C. Code Ann. § 59-67-420\(B\)](#), “Hazardous transportation” is a district-funded service (that *may* be state-funded) when transporting students is necessary to protect their health and safety due to potentially hazardous traffic conditions. Districts have utilized an estimated \$1.5 million in hazardous transportation services for FY 2024-25.

While the General Assembly has not appropriated additional funds for hazardous routes and stop costs since FY 2016-2017, the SCDE will continue to allocate \$500,000 from its operating budget to help districts offset a portion of this expense. School districts that provide hazardous transportation, based on their route development, will be responsible for covering all hazardous costs that exceed the SCDE allocation. District requests for hazardous transportation must be submitted as part of the annual route plan and approved by the SCDE.

In addition to resuming hazardous transportation fees under [S.C. Code Ann. § 59-67-420\(B\)](#) and [S.C. Code Reg. 43-80](#), the current School Bus Per Stop rate will increase from \$.19 per stop to \$.28 per stop effective July 1, 2025. This necessary adjustment accounts for the significant increase in transportation fuel costs since the rate was last updated in 2016.

May 6, 2025

The State Board of Education's Regulation, [S.C. Code Reg. 43-80](#), provides helpful guidance for districts as they assess this issue. Additionally, the Student Transportation Routing portal is a helpful tool to assist in analyzing the scope and costs of the hazardous routes districts create as part of their transportation plan. SCDE staff is always ready to assist with questions related to use of the routing software.

The following considerations will help districts plan for the resumption of hazardous transportation fees:

- Review your current and future hazardous and other district-funded charges listed in the Student Transportation Routing portal.
- Evaluate and adjust routes that could safely and reasonably eliminate hazardous or other district-funded conditions.
- Budget for listed charges that remain in effect using the Student Transportation Routing portal.
- Maintain frequent communication with your assigned county supervisor regarding all routing concerns, questions about hazardous or other district-funded conditions/routes, and proposed route modifications.

Early planning and ongoing communication will help ensure no surprises and a smooth transition when hazardous transportation fees resume on July 1, 2025. Please contact Mike Bullman at [mbullman@ed.sc.gov](mailto:mbullman@ed.sc.gov) with questions.